

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ROME 06557 212025Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00

EB-08 COME-00 DHA-02 /108 W

-----220034Z 051532 /20

R 211715Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4131

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

UNCLAS ROME 6557

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, AR

SUBJ: FORMATION OF "PERONIST MONTONERO MOVEMENT" ANNOUNCED IN ROME

1. A GROUP OF ANTI-GIUNTA ARGENTINIANS SURFACED BRIEFLY IN ROME ON APRIL 20 TO ANNOUNCE THE UNION OF THE "AUTHENTIC PERONIST PARTY" AND THE MONOTNEROS IN THE NEW "PERONIST MONTONERO MOVEMENT".
2. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE HASTILY AND SEMI-CLANDESTINELY CONVOKED, MARIO EDUARDO FIRMENICK, ENTITLED IN ITALIAN PRESS ACCOUNTS AS "SECRETARY GENERAL AND COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES" OF THE NEW MOVEMENT, OUTLINED THE MOVEMENT'S PROGRAM AND OBJECTIVES, AND INTRODUCED TO THE PRESS A DOZEN ARGENTINIAN COLLABORATORS AS THE MILITARY AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP OF THE MOVEMENT.
3. FIRMENICH CALLED UPON "ALL THE POPULAR DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN ARGENTINA "TO JOIN IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DICTATORSHIP, AGAINST TORTURE AND REPRESSION OF HUMAN LIBERTIES, AND FOR THE TRANSITION TO A "SOCIALISM OF THE WORKING CLASSES". THOSE PARTIES NOT DISPOSED TO COLLABORATE WITH THE MILITARY GIUNTA WERE INVITED TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT IN A PROGRAM OF "PACIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 ROME 06557 212025Z

AND RENOVATION", DEMANDING THE LIBERATION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, THE RESTORATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES, PROCEEDINGS AGAINST HOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR TORTURE AND VIOLENCE, AND GENERAL ELECTIONS "WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION".

4. FIRMENICH EXPLAINED THAT LINEAL PREDECESSORS OF THE MOVEMENT, INCLUDING THE MONTONEROS THEMSELVES, THE AUTHENTIC PERONIST PARTY AND THE JUSTICIALISTS HAD MADE MISTAKES, THE

PRIMARY ONE BEING THE ATTEMPT TO CREAT SOCIALISM WITHOUT NATIONALIZING THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION. THE MOVEMENT THEREFORE ANTICIPATES THAT, AFTER IT TAKES POWER, THE ROAD TO SOCIALISM WILL REQUIRE SUCH NATIONALIZATION IN A FIRST PHASE TO BE FOLLOWED BY A GRADUAL "REAPPROPRIATION" OF THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION TO THE PEOPLE.

5. FIRMENICH MADE IT CLEAR THAT DESPITE THE THEME OF "PACIFICATION AND RENOVATION", THE MOVEMENT'S MODUS OPERANDI WILL CONTINUE TO BE ARMED STRUGGLE WITHIN THE COUNTRY; ITS MOTTO IS "RESIST AND WIN". BUT HE DENIED THAT THE MONTONEROS HAD EVER CARRIED OUT VIOLENT OPERATIONS OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY.

6. ON THE PLATFORM WITH FIRMENICH WERE THE MEMBERS OF THE "SUPERIOR COUNCIL" OF THE MOVEMENT, INTRODUCED AS: OSCAR RAUL BIDEAIN - EX-GOVERNOR OF BUENOS AIRES, EX-AUTHENTIC PARTY RICARDO ARMANDO OBREGON CANO - EX-GOVERNOR OF CORDOBA, EX-AUTHENTIC PARTY RUDOLFO PUIGGROS - LAST RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF B.A. GONZALVO CHAVES - UNION LEADER RODOLFO GALIMBERTI - "COMMANDER OF THE GUERRILLA MOVEMENT" HUGO FERNANDO VACA NARVAJA - "COMMANDER OF THE GUERRILLA MOVEMENT", PLUS LIDIA MASSAFERRO, ADRIAN LESGART, MANUEL ENRIQUE PEDREIRA, OSVALDO LOVEY, JAN GELMAN AND MIGUEL BONASSO.

7. MARIO EDUARDO FIRMENICH HIMSELF WAS DESCRIBED AS THE "LAST SURVIVING LEADER OF RENOWN AMONG THE ARGENTINE GUERRILLAS ARISEN AT THE END OF THE '60'S". HE REPORTEDLY LEFT ARGENTINA UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 ROME 06557 212025Z

SECRETLY "A FEW WEEKS AGO".

8. THE CONFERENCE WAS ARRANGED BY SENATOR LELIO BASSO, PERENNIAL ITALIAN LEFTIST AND HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE, AND PRESIDENT OF THE "LEAGUE FOR THE RIGHTS AND LIBERATION OF PEOPLES" WHICH STAGED ONE OF BERTRAND RUSSELL'S "TRIALS" IN ROME IN 1974. BASSO, IN A PRESUMED ATTEMPT TO ASSURE THE SECURITY OF THE ARGENTINIANS, CALLED THE PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE BLIND, ASSEMBLING INVITED JOURNALISTS IN HIS OFFICE WITHOUT REVEALING WITH WHOM THEY WOULD MEET, AND TRANSPORTING THEM TO A HOTEL WHERE THE "SUPERIOR COUNCIL" OF THE MOVEMENT HAD BEEN QUIETLY ASSEMBLED. DESPITE THESE MANEUVERS, BASSO WAS ABLE TO PRODUCE ABOUT 50 JOURNALISTS, INCLUDING MANY OF THE "QUALITY" PRESS. GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009